

Town of Hounsfield Dog Law  
Local Law # 1 of 2010

**Article 1**  
**Statement of Authority**

The Town Board of the Town of Hounsfield pursuant to the authority granted under Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law and Sections 10 and 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law hereby enacts as follows:

**Article 2**  
**Statement of Purpose and Findings**

The Town Board of the Town of Hounsfield hereby finds that in view of new State Laws imposing increased responsibility on the Town for the licensing of dogs and dog control that it is necessary to have a global revision of all prior regulations of the Town with respect to licensing of dogs and dog control. It is the purpose of this law to adopt comprehensive regulations for the licensing of dogs and dog control issues within the Town.

**Article 3**  
**Enactment**

The Town Board of the Town of Hounsfield hereby enacts as follows:

**Section 1:**     **Title:** the title of this Law shall be Dog Control Law of the Town of Hounsfield.

**Section 2:**     **Definition of Terms:** As used in this Local Law the following words shall have the following respective meanings:

- (a) "Dangerous dog", as also defined in Article 7 of the NYS Ag and Markets law, means any dog which without justification
  - (i) attacks a person, companion and causes physical injury or death, or (ii) behaves in a manner which a reasonable person would believe poses a serious and unjustified imminent threat of serious physical injury or death to one or more persons, companion animals, farm animals or domestic animals or (iii) without justification attacks a service dog, guide dog or hearing dog and causes physical injury or death.
- (b) "Dog" means male and female, licensed and unlicensed, members of the species canis familiaris.
- (c) "Owner" means person entitled to claim lawful custody and possession of a dog who is responsible for purchasing the license for such dog unless the dog is or has been lost, and such loss was promptly reported to the dog control officer and a reasonable search has been made. If a dog is not licensed, the term owner shall designate and cover any person or persons, firm, association, or corporation, who or which at any time owns or has custody or control of, harbors, or is otherwise responsible for any dog which is kept, brought or comes within the Town. Any person owning or harboring a dog for a period of one (1) week prior to filing any complaint charging a violation of this Local

Law, shall be held in and deemed to be the owner of any dog found to be in violation of this chapter shall be under 18 years of age, the head of the household in which said minor shall be deemed to have custody and control of said dog and shall be responsible for any acts of the said dog in violation of this Local Law.

(d) “Run at Large” means to be in a public place or on private land without the knowledge, consent, and approval of the owner of such lands.

(e) “Town” means the Town of Hounsfield.

**Section 3: Licensing and Regulation of Dogs:** Effective January 1, 2011:

(a) All dogs in the Town of Hounsfield unless otherwise exempted, must be licensed with the Town Clerk by the age of 4 months and are required to present a current certificate of a rabies shot at the time of licensing or the renewal of an existing license provided, however, that dogs of any age which are held at a shelter, pursuant to a contract or agreement with a County, City, Town or Village, or duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, humane society or dog protective association do not have to be licensed.

(b) Any dog harbored within the Town of Hounsfield owned by a non-resident of New York State and licensed by a jurisdiction outside the State of New York, shall for a period of thirty (30) days be exempt from the licensing and identification provisions of this local law.

(c) All dog licenses will be for a period of one year and will expire at the end of the month one year from the date of issue.

(d) Fees for Licensing of Dogs: The fee for a spayed or neutered dog will be \$10.00, (which included the assessment of a \$ 1 surcharge for the purpose of carrying out animal population control) and the fee for an un-spayed or un-neutered dog will be \$20.00, (which included the assessment of a \$3 surcharge for the purpose of carrying out animal population control) with such fees being reviewed by the Town Board periodically and may be changed by a resolution of the Town Board, if deemed necessary. Replacement tags may be acquired from the Office of the Town Clerk for a fee of \$3.00.

(e) Enumeration fee: When the Jefferson County Dog Control office conducts biannual dog enumeration and a delinquent owner is referred to the Town for licensure on said basis, a fee of \$5 will be assessed to all dogs found unlicensed or renewed at the time the enumeration is conducted.

(f) Purebred License: The Town of Hounsfield will not be issuing Purebred or Kennel Licenses. All dogs will be licensed individually as per fee system stated above.

(g) Service Dogs: The Town of Hounsfield will require a license for any guide dog, service dog, hearing dog, detection dog, wolves, search dog, working dog or therapy dog but such dogs are exempt from a fee.

(h) The Town of Hounsfield does not allow the licensing of dogs by a shelter. The County or shelter must send the adoptive dog owners or persons redeeming dogs to the Town Clerk of the Town in which the dog will be harbored for licensing or to the Town Clerk of the Town of Hounsfield. In such instances, the County or the SCPA shall issue a ten (10) day permit with a copy to be sent to the Town during which time the Owner shall secure valid license.

(i) All dog licenses may be purchased by visiting the Town offices or by regular mail. If licensing or renewing a license by mail, the appropriate fee must accompany the forms. There will be NO refund of fees.

(j) All fees will be used in funding the administration of the Dog Control Law of the Town of Hounsfield as defined herein.

(k) Monthly Report: The Town of Hounsfield shall submit a monthly report to Jefferson County Dog Control office by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

#### **Article 4** **Repealer**

This Local Law shall supersede all prior Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations relative to the control of dogs within the Town of Hounsfield, and they shall be upon the effectiveness of this Local Law, null and void.

#### **Article 5** **Severability**

If any part of this Chapter shall be found to be void, voidable, or unenforceable for any reason whatsoever, it shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any remaining section or provision of this Chapter.

#### **Article 6** **Effective Date**

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.